

NATIONAL ALLIANCE FOR MODEL STATE DRUG LAWS

REGIONAL METHAMPHETAMINE LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY PLANNING EVENTS

COLLABORATIVE PROJECT WITH ONDCP, SAMHSA, and OJP/BJA

OVERVIEW

Overview of Project

The National Alliance for Model State Drug Laws (NAMSDL) has agreed to partner with the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), Office of Justice Programs/Bureau of Justice Assistance (OJP/BJA), and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) to conduct four (4) regional planning events to assist states with their state and regional legislative and policy efforts to address methamphetamine (meth) and its related issues. Given the unprecedented level of states' legislative efforts to address meth, regional planning is needed to prioritize next steps for states and to coordinate initiatives within multistate areas.

Objectives of the Regional Meth Legislative and Policy Planning Events

Each regional is intended to result in (1) a legislative and policy action plan for each state, (2) identification of laws and policies that are working or having positive benefits for a state that might be worthy of replication in other states in the region, (3) identification of issues, concerns, problems that exist in multiple states, including those that require interstate resolutions, (4) identification of states' needs for federal assistance and federal requests for states' assistance, and (5) identification of issues, concerns, and initiatives that may require collaboration among federal, state and local officials to resolve. In order to accomplish these objectives, NAMSDL will convene regional events that 1) engage a multidisciplinary team of select individuals from each state and the District of Columbia (D. C.), 2) plenary sessions to inform discussion and planning, and 3) focus on facilitated group processes designed to produce prioritized actions plans.

Format of the Regional Meth Legislative and Policy Planning Events

Each regional meth planning event will be two days featuring four plenary sessions, five to seven (number will depend on size of region) facilitated group processes designed to produce prioritized actions plans, and a closing session featuring the public reading of priorities and action plans developed during the event.

Plenary sessions will be used to provide information that all participants need to hear, including practical results of various state laws and policies, national statistics and priorities, and federal and national resources available to states. NAMSDL will work with its federal agency partners and key national organizations to identify plenary session speakers and/or panelists for each regional event.

The majority of participants' time will be spent in the facilitated working groups. Two to three state teams will participate in each working group; on the second day of each regional event, the Governors' designees will meet with federal officials for facilitated planning sessions to identify states' needs for federal assistance and federal requests for states' assistance, as well as issues, concerns, and initiatives that may require collaboration among federal, state and local officials to resolve.

Consultants from NAMSDL's national network will be used to facilitate the working groups. These individuals are familiar with the issue areas to be discussed, have strong group facilitation skills, and work or have worked at the state and local levels. Many of these consultants work with NAMSDL on a regular basis with the model

state drug laws summits that the organization conducts on our Congressional appropriations (see **Capacity of NAMSDL to Deliver**).

Participants in the Regional Meth Legislative and Policy Planning Events

NAMSDL will work with the states and D. C., its federal partners, and relevant national organizations to identify and select 21 stakeholders to comprise each state's multidisciplinary team to participate (the DC team will have 5 members). The composition of each state's team will be representatives of the following:

1. Governor's designee
2. State Administrative Agency (SAA) for criminal justice
3. State law enforcement official
4. Prosecutor/District Attorney
5. State's State Associations of Addiction Services affiliate
6. Single state authority for substance abuse
7. Recovery community
8. State prevention coordinator (or equivalent)
9. State prevention association
10. Stakeholder in Drug Endangered Children effort
11. Business community
12. Native American/Tribal Lands
13. Community coalition
14. Community coalition
15. Stakeholder in cleanup and remediation efforts (addressing former meth lab sites)
16. Association of counties
17. Association of cities/municipalities
18. Local law enforcement official
19. Attorney General or his/her rep
20. State Senator
21. State Representative (Legislator)

The DC team will include a mayor's designee, law enforcement representative, addiction treatment professional, prevention/education specialist, and a community member.

Given the organization's longstanding working relationships with states, NAMSDL has the capacity to conduct and coordinate the outreach to state officials necessary to build these teams.

NAMSDL will also work with the federal agency partners to identify a select group of federal to attend and participate in the regional meth planning events in order to accomplish the above-stated objectives re: state/federal dialogue, problem solving, and action planning.

Defining the Regions

The four regions for these events and the states comprising each are as follows:

South/Southeast:

1. Alabama
2. Arkansas
3. District of Columbia
4. Florida
5. Georgia

6. Kentucky
7. Louisiana
8. Maryland
9. Mississippi
10. North Carolina
11. South Carolina
12. Tennessee
13. Virginia

West and Southwest:

1. Alaska
2. Arizona
3. California
4. Colorado
5. Hawaii
6. Idaho
7. Montana
8. Nevada
9. New Mexico
10. Oklahoma
11. Oregon
12. Texas
13. Utah
14. Washington
15. Wyoming

Northeast and Mid-Atlantic:

1. Connecticut
2. Delaware
3. Maine
4. Massachusetts
5. New Hampshire
6. New Jersey
7. New York
8. Ohio
9. Pennsylvania
10. Rhode Island
11. Vermont
12. West Virginia

Midwest and Great Lakes:

1. Illinois
2. Indiana
3. Iowa
4. Kansas
5. Michigan
6. Minnesota
7. Missouri
8. Nebraska

9. North Dakota
10. South Dakota
11. Wisconsin

Anticipated Timeframes and Locations for Regional Meth Legislative and Policy Planning Events

Timing of the regionals will ultimately depend on when NAMSDL can access the funding committed by the federal partners engaged in this effort. The anticipated timing of these events and the host locations are as followed:

1. South/Southeast: July 13-14, 2006 in Birmingham, AL
2. West and Southwest: October 5-6, 2006 in Salt Lake City, UT
3. Midwest and Great Lakes: (date and location TBD)
4. Northeast and Mid-Atlantic: (date and location TBD)

NAMSDL will work with the federal partners to set final dates and locations, once funding is available to make commitments to facilities, based on feasibility and utility for states (e.g. in the South/Southeast has several states with legislative sessions ending in April; therefore, the proposed timing for this regional would allow these states to consider information about what they passed or couldn't pass into the action plans).

Capacity of NAMSDL to Deliver

The National Alliance for Model State Drug Laws (NAMSDL) is a resource for governors, state legislators, attorneys general, drug and alcohol professionals, community leaders, the recovering community, and others striving for comprehensive and effective state drug and alcohol laws, policies, and programs. A 501(c)(3) Congressionally funded non-profit, NAMSDL is the successor of the President's Commission on Model State Drug Laws. In this capacity, NAMSDL has conducted 24 state summits that served as needs assessment and action planning mechanisms for states in addressing alcohol and other drug issues. These strategic events bring together a wide range of state stakeholders including elected officials, addiction treatment professionals, law enforcement officials, prevention specialists, state agency officials, prosecutors, youth, educators, school administrators, the business community, community coalitions, the recovery community, and others working to maintain, enhance, and expand efforts to address alcohol and other drug problems. Over 100 recommendations and related actions plans are crafted during the facilitated discussions that comprise these summits. A number of states continue to use these recommendations and action plans as "blue prints" for their alcohol and other drug efforts.

Specific to methamphetamine, NAMSDL has emerged as the primary national resource for states on legislative and policy efforts to address meth and its related issues. Due to the high volume of requests for technical assistance from states, NAMSDL has held two national conferences on legislative and policy options related to meth. Additionally, NAMSDL has produced a variety of legislative analysis and bill tracking documents to assist states, Congressional staff, and federal officials in understanding states' legislative efforts to address precursor chemicals, drug endangered children, cleanup and remediation of former meth lab sites, and other corollary issues; these documents are posted on NAMSDL's Web site at www.natlalliance.org/publications.

Given both NAMSDL's strong and longstanding track record in working with states on strategic planning related to alcohol and other drug efforts and its nationally recognized work on meth-related legislation and policy, ONDCP, OJP/BJA, and SAMHSA support this organization in conducting these regional meth planning meetings to assist states.